

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An article attachment system for a vehicle having one or more
2 receiving members, comprising:

3 a base having an attachment device adapted to selectively
4 couple the base to the receiving member and to selectively uncouple the base
5 from the receiving member.

6 the base adapted to interchangeably receive an article; and

7 the base having a retention device adapted to selectively retain
8 the article and to selectively release the article.

1 2. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the base is
2 attachable at one or more locations along the receiving member.

1 3. The attachment system of Claim 2, wherein the base is adapted
2 to move in relation to the receiving member.

1 4. The attachment system of Claim 2, wherein the base is adapted
2 to be substantially non-movable in relation to the receiving member.

1 5. The attachment system of Claim 4, wherein the base includes a
2 friction device engageable with the receiving member to substantially limit
3 movement of the base in relation to the receiving member.

1 6. The attachment system of Claim 4, wherein the base includes a
2 positioning device engageable with the receiving member to substantially
3 prevent movement of the base in relation to the receiving member.

1 7. The attachment system of Claim 1, further comprising an article
2 interface device receivable in the base, the article interface device adapted to
3 receive one of a group of articles.

1 8. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the retention device
2 includes a spring-biased catch adapted to retain the article.

1 9. The attachment system of Claim 8, wherein the retention device
2 includes a release device having an actuation member in operable
3 engagement with the catch to release the article.

1 10. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the article interface
2 device is a bracket adapted to interchangeably couple with one of a group of
3 articles.

1 11. The attachment system of Claim 10, wherein the articles are
2 taken from the group consisting of a storage compartment, a hanger, a
3 bracket, a fixture, a support member, a cargo storage shelf, an adaptable
4 consumer product, a commercial-use article, and a business-related article.

1 12. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the base further
2 comprises a safety interlock adapted to prevent uncoupling the base from the
3 receiving member when the article is coupled to the base.

1 13. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment
2 device includes a lever and fulcrum mechanism.

1 14. The attachment system of Claim 1 wherein the attachment
2 device includes a push button.

1 15. The attachment system of Claim 1 wherein the attachment
2 device includes a slide mechanism.

1 16. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment
2 device includes a clasp.

1 17. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment
2 device includes a spring-biased hinge.

1 18. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment
2 device includes a threaded fastener.

1 19. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment
2 device includes a rotatable lever.

1 20. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the base includes
2 an electrically conductive path adapted to provide a utility interface between
3 the receiving member and the article.

1 21. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the receiving device
2 is an elongated track member mountable to one or more of a headliner, floor,
3 cargo door or interior trim component of the vehicle.

1 22. An article attachment system for a vehicle, comprising:
2 means for coupling a base to one or more elongated members
3 in the interior of a vehicle; and
4 means for coupling one or more articles to the base.

1 23. The article attachment system of Claim 22, wherein the means
2 for coupling the base is accomplished without using tools.

1 24. The article attachment system of Claim 22, further comprising
2 means for preventing sliding motion of the base when the article is coupled to
3 the base.

1 25. The article attachment system of Claim 22, further comprising,
2 means for preventing disengagement of the base from the elongated member
3 when the article is coupled to the base.

1 26. A kit for an article attachment system in a vehicle having one or
2 more elongated members coupled to an interior portion of the vehicle, the kit
3 comprising:
4 a base portion adapted to be coupled to the elongated member;
5 an attachment device adapted to couple the base to the
6 elongated member; and
7 a retention device adapted to couple an article to the base.

1 27. The kit of Claim 26, further comprising an interlock adapted to
2 prevent uncoupling the article from the base when the base is coupled to the
3 elongated member.

1 28. The kit of Claim 26, wherein a portion of the base is electrically
2 conductive.

1 29. The kit of Claim 26, further comprising an article interface device
2 receivable in the base and adapted to couple to the article.

1 30. The kit of Claim 26, further comprising a positioning device
2 adapted to substantially limit movement of the base relative to the elongated
3 member.

1 31. The kit of Claim 26, wherein the retention device includes a latch
2 adapted to retain the article.

1 32. The kit of Claim 26, wherein the retention device includes a
2 release device adapted to release the article.

1 33. A method of mounting an article on a vehicle having one or
2 more receiving members, comprising:
3 coupling a base to the receiving member by engaging an
4 attachment device with the receiving member;
5 coupling the article to the base by engaging a retention device
6 on the base; and
7 providing an interlock to prevent removal of the base from the
8 receiving member when the article is coupled to the base.

1 34. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of coupling
2 an article interface device to the base.

1 35. The method of Claim 34, wherein the article is coupled to the
2 article interface device.

1 36. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting utilities through the base to the article.

1 37. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of limiting
2 the movement of the base relative to the receiving member.

1 38. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of removing
2 the article from the base by actuating a release device on the retention
3 member.

1 39. A universal mounting adapter for interchangeably attaching
2 articles to a receiving member, comprising:
3 a base adapted to couple to the receiving member;
4 the base having a selectively deployable attachment device adapted to
5 engage a portion of the receiving member and maintain the base operably
6 coupled to the receiving member;
7 an article interface adapted to couple an article to the base; and
8 a retention device communicating with the article interface and the
9 base.

1 40. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the
2 receiving member is an elongated rail coupled to an interior portion of a
3 vehicle.

1 41. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the
2 retention device includes a spring-biased catch member for selectively holding
3 the article to the base and selectively releasing the article from the base.

1 42. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the
2 retention device includes a manual actuator operably engaging the catch
3 member.

1 43. The universal mounting actuator of Claim 39, further comprising
2 an interlock device adapted to maintain the base in a coupled relationship with
3 the receiving member when the article is coupled to the base.

1 44. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the articles
2 are taken from the group consisting of a storage compartment, a hanger, a
3 bracket, a fixture, an adaptable consumer product, a commercial-use device,
4 an industrial product, and a business-related article.

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